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AUTHORITY
MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS
COLOSSUS
STARTING THIS ISSUE
BLACK PANTHER
...PLUS TWO OTHER EXCITING FEATURES!
Gene Colan

MARVEL® COMICS PRESENTS™

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COLOSSUS "GOD'S COUNTRY" 1
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SHANNA THE SHE-DEVIL 25
WRITER — Bruce Jones
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"DRAW THE LINES..." — PART 4 OF 8

Colossus battled the COLD WARRIORS to save an American family. But when even the POLICE fire on them, it becomes clear that the U.S. GOVERNMENT is trying to KILL the whole family! Bruce, the father, refuses to leave his home, and prepares the homestead for WAR, even as his traumatized family slips further into SURREALITY!

"A RUMOR OF LIFE" — PART 1 OF 25

His name is T'challa, the king of the hidden, technologically advanced African nation of WAKANDA. He is also known as the Black Panther, to his subjects and to the outside world, a man who merges with the dark, and some swear has the abilities of his namesake, the great cat. But he is far from his homeland, prowling the hostile night outside the black township in South Africa.

"REED'S ON THE ROOF AND WE CAN'T GET HIM DOWN"

Reed and Sue Richards find that their lives can be just as harrowing in the suburbs as they were fighting super-villains back with the Fantastic Four. Incidents like these are why they gave up their secret identities.

"A TOOTH FOR A TOOTH"

Shanna O'Hara, a veterinarian and ecologist, became an environmental specialist – – where her natural affinity for animals enabled her to walk among even the most ferocious big cats unharmed. However, a series of tragic incidents made her leave civilization behind. She took to the jungles as if it were her native element. There, with her developed physical prowess, hot temper, and mane of red hair, she soon gained the name "Shanna the She-Devil."

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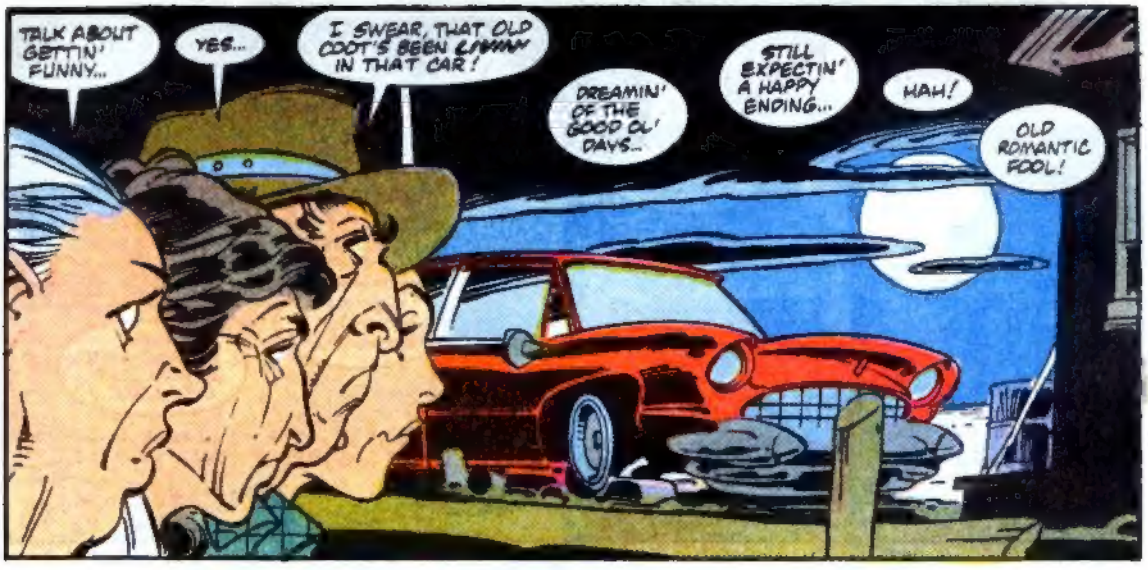
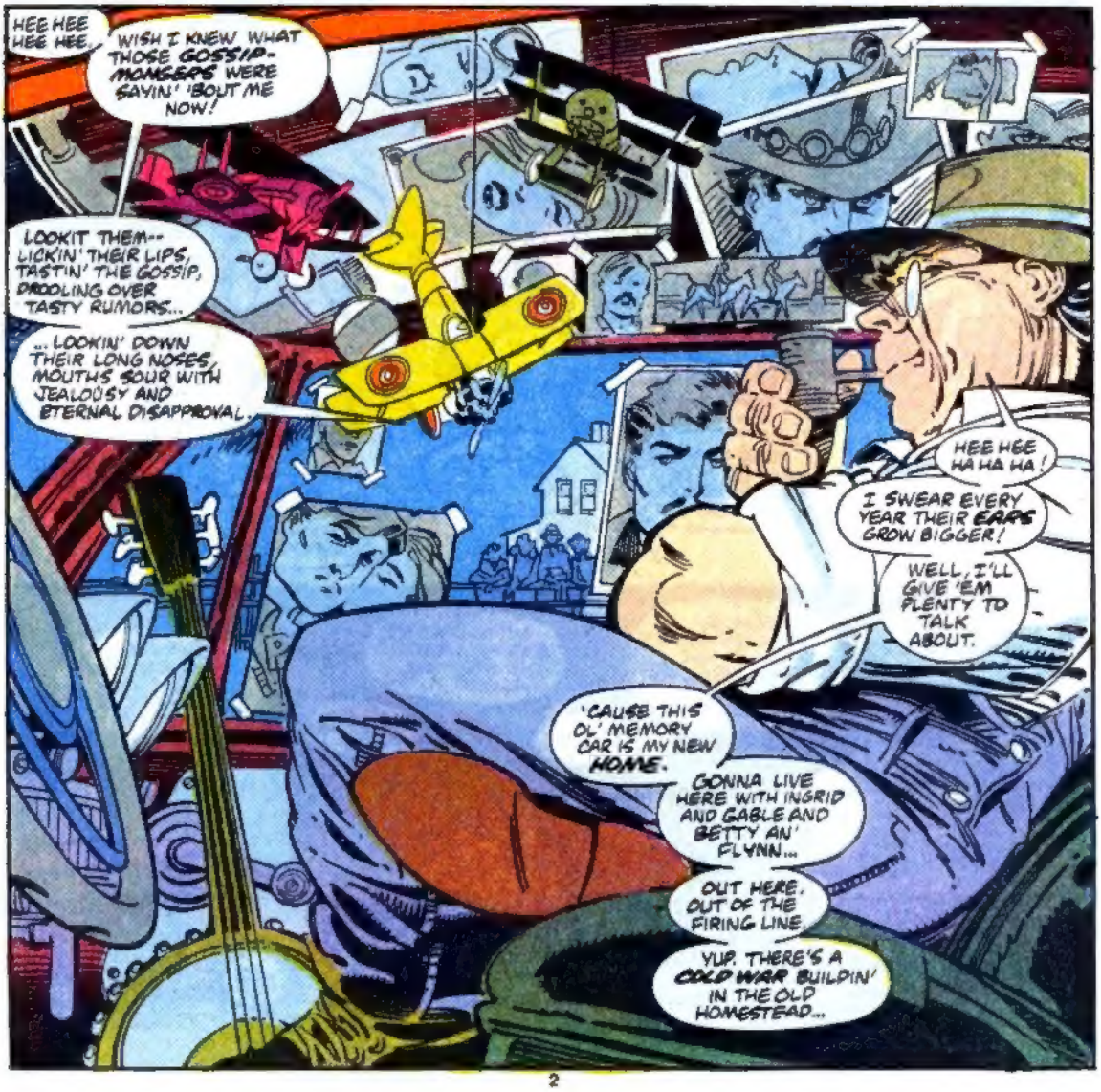
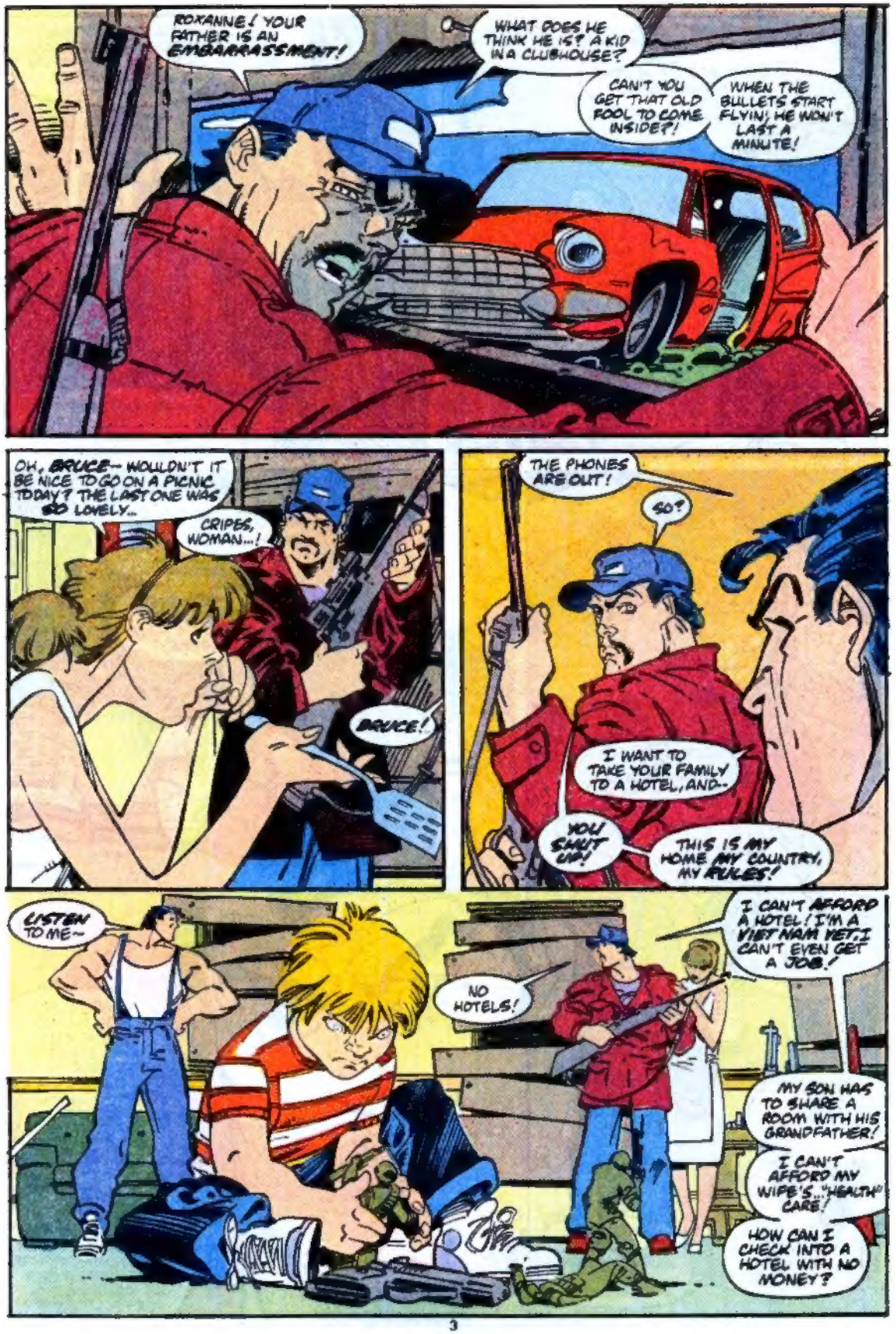
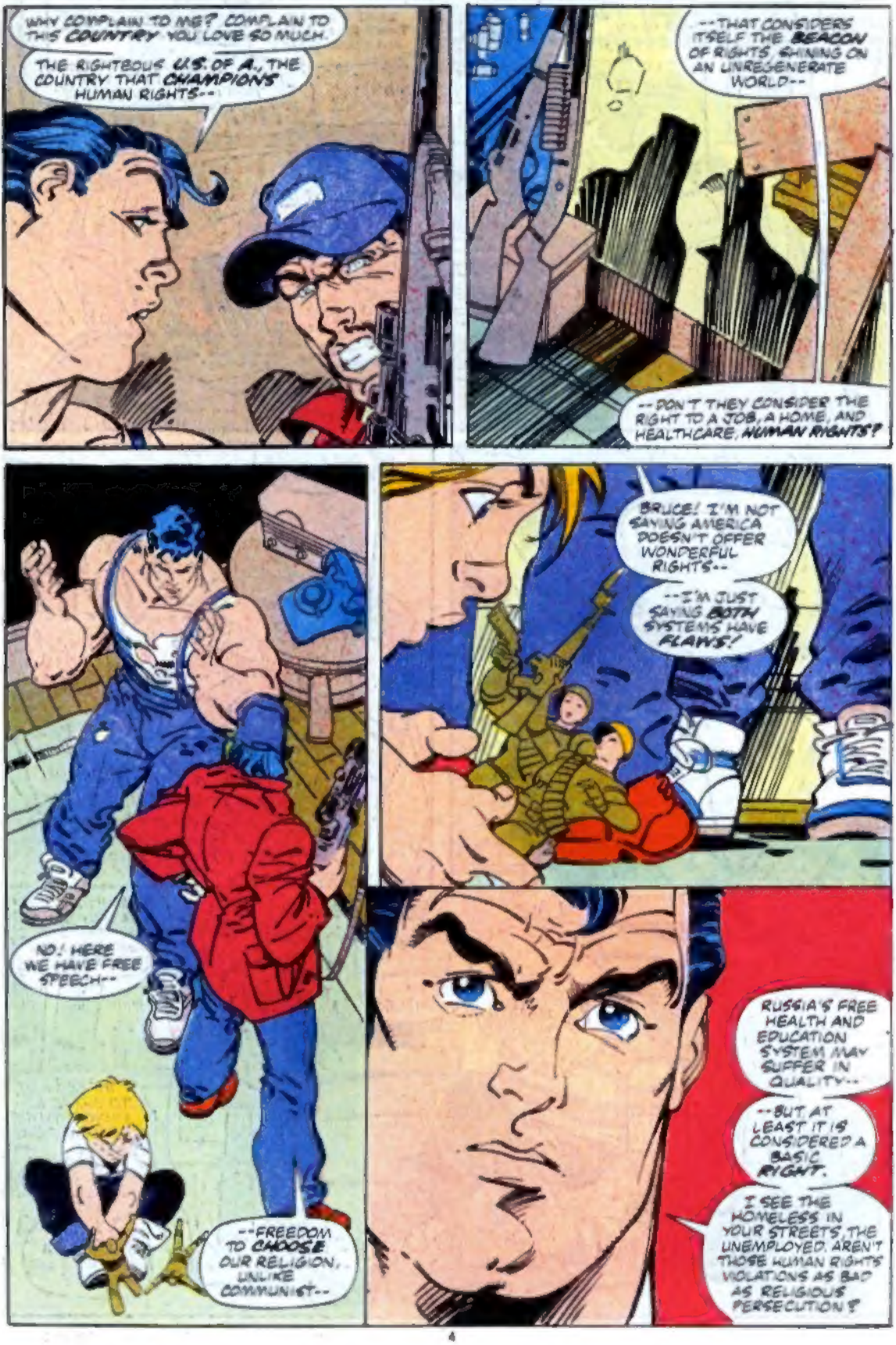
GOD'S COUNTRY PART III--
DRAW THE LINES...
COLOSSUS
STRANGE GOINGS-ON OVER THERE...
BOARDIN' UP WINDOWS...
HUMPH. NOT VERY NEIGHBORLY!
I SAW BRUCE WITH AN ARMLOAD OF GUNS...
I SAW ROXANNE WITH COILS OF ROPE...
YOU DON'T SAY...!
I SAW HER IN THE GARDEN LAST WEEK WITH WELTS ON HER WRISTS...
NEVER!
POOR ROXANNE HAD COILS OF ROPE 'ROUND HER HANDS...
NO! BUT BRUCE IS A SWEETHEART...
YOU KNOW... SOMETIMES HER FACE LOOKS KIND OF BRUISED...
WELL, NEIGHBORS-- REMEMBER HER "INCIDENT".
YES! HER HUSBAND'S ALWAYS LOOKIN' AT HER FUNNY, HALF EXPECTING ANOTHER--
--"INCIDENT".
AN' WHO'S THE BIG FELLA WITH THE STRANGE ACCENT?
A WAR BUDDY?
YOU THINK BRUCE HAD SHADY DEALINGS WITH FOREIGNERS IN THE WAR?
HUMPH--THAT WAR! HE'S BEEN FUNNY EVER SINCE. AND BITTER...?!

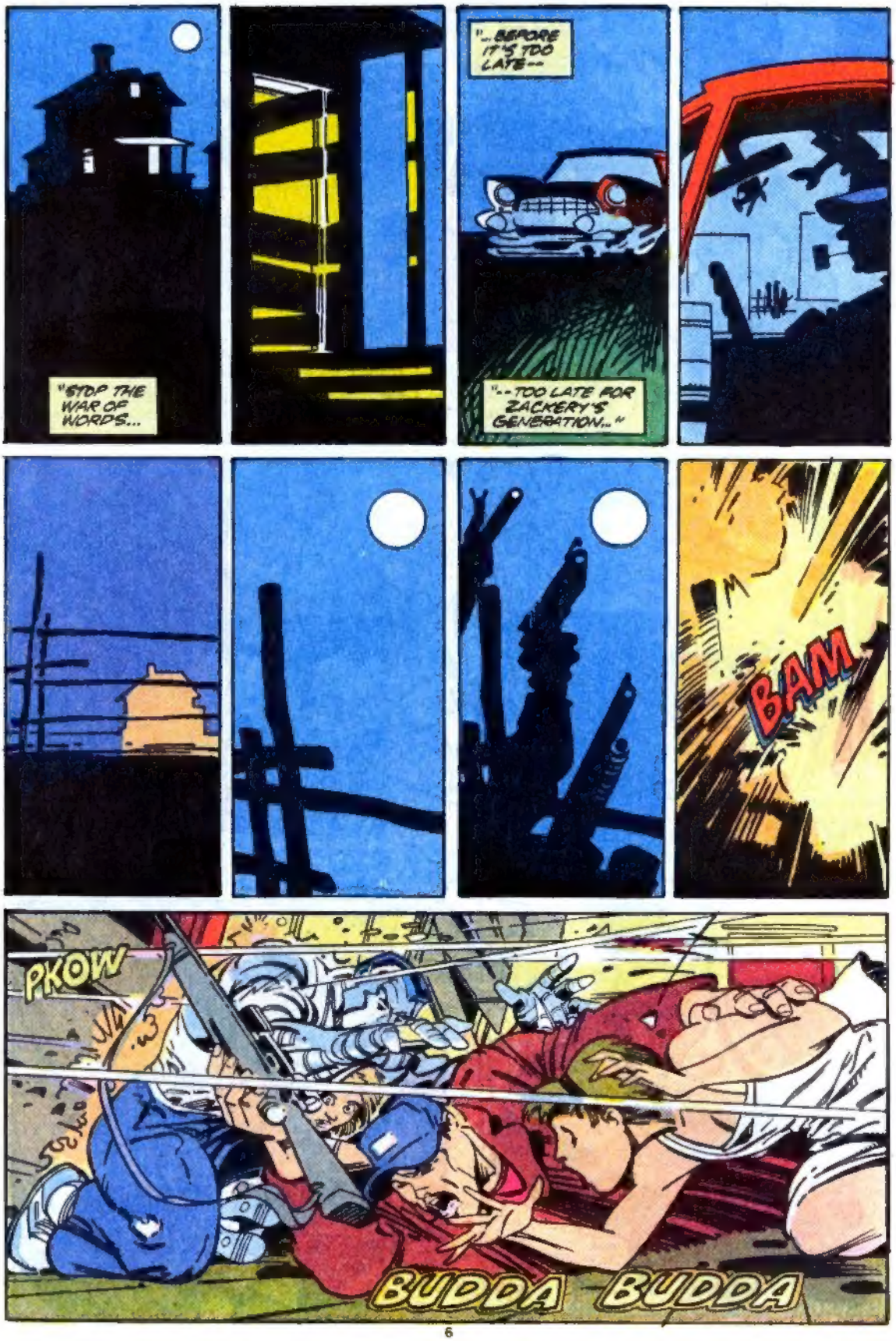

TALK ABOUT GETTIN' FUNNY...
YES...
I SWEAR, THAT OLD COOT'S BEEN LIVIN' IN THAT CAR!
DREAMIN' OF THE GOOD OL' DAYS...
STILL EXPECTIN' A HAPPY ENDING...
HAH!
OLD ROMANTIC FOOL!


HEE HEE HEE HEE...
WISH I KNEW WHAT THOSE GOSSIP-MONGERS WERE SAYIN' 'BOUT ME NOW!
LOOKIT THEM-- LICKIN' THEIR LIPS, TASTIN' THE GOSSIP, DROOLING OVER TASTY RUMORS...
...LOOKIN' DOWN THEIR LONG NOSES, MOUTHS SOUR WITH JEALOUSY AND ETERNAL DISAPPROVAL.
HEE HEE HA HA HA!
I SWEAR EVERY YEAR THEIR EARS GROW BIGGER!
WELL, I'LL GIVE 'EM PLENTY TO TALK ABOUT.
'CAUSE THIS OL' MEMORY CAR IS MY NEW HOME.
GONNA LIVE HERE WITH INGRID AND GABLE AND BETTY AN' FLYNN...
OUT HERE, OUT OF THE FIRING LINE.
YUP. THERE'S A COLD WAR BUILDIN' IN THE OLD HOMESTEAD...


ROXANNE! YOUR FATHER IS AN EMBARRASSMENT!
WHAT DOES HE THINK HE IS? A KID IN A CLUBHOUSE?
CAN'T YOU GET THAT OLD FOOL TO COME INSIDE?!
WHEN THE BULLETS START FLYIN', HE WON'T LAST A MINUTE!
OH, BRUCE-- WOULDN'T IT BE NICE TO GO ON A PICNIC TODAY? THE LAST ONE WAS SO LOVELY...
CRIPES, WOMAN...!
BRUCE!
THE PHONES ARE OUT!
SO?
I WANT TO TAKE YOUR FAMILY TO A HOTEL, AND--
YOU SHUT UP!
THIS IS MY HOME, MY COUNTRY, MY RULES!
LISTEN TO ME--
NO HOTELS!
I CAN'T AFFORD A HOTEL! I'M A VIET NAM VET, I CAN'T EVEN GET A JOB!
MY SON HAS TO SHARE A ROOM WITH HIS GRANDFATHER!
I CAN'T AFFORD MY WIFE'S "HEALTH" CARE!
HOW CAN I CHECK INTO A HOTEL WITH NO MONEY?

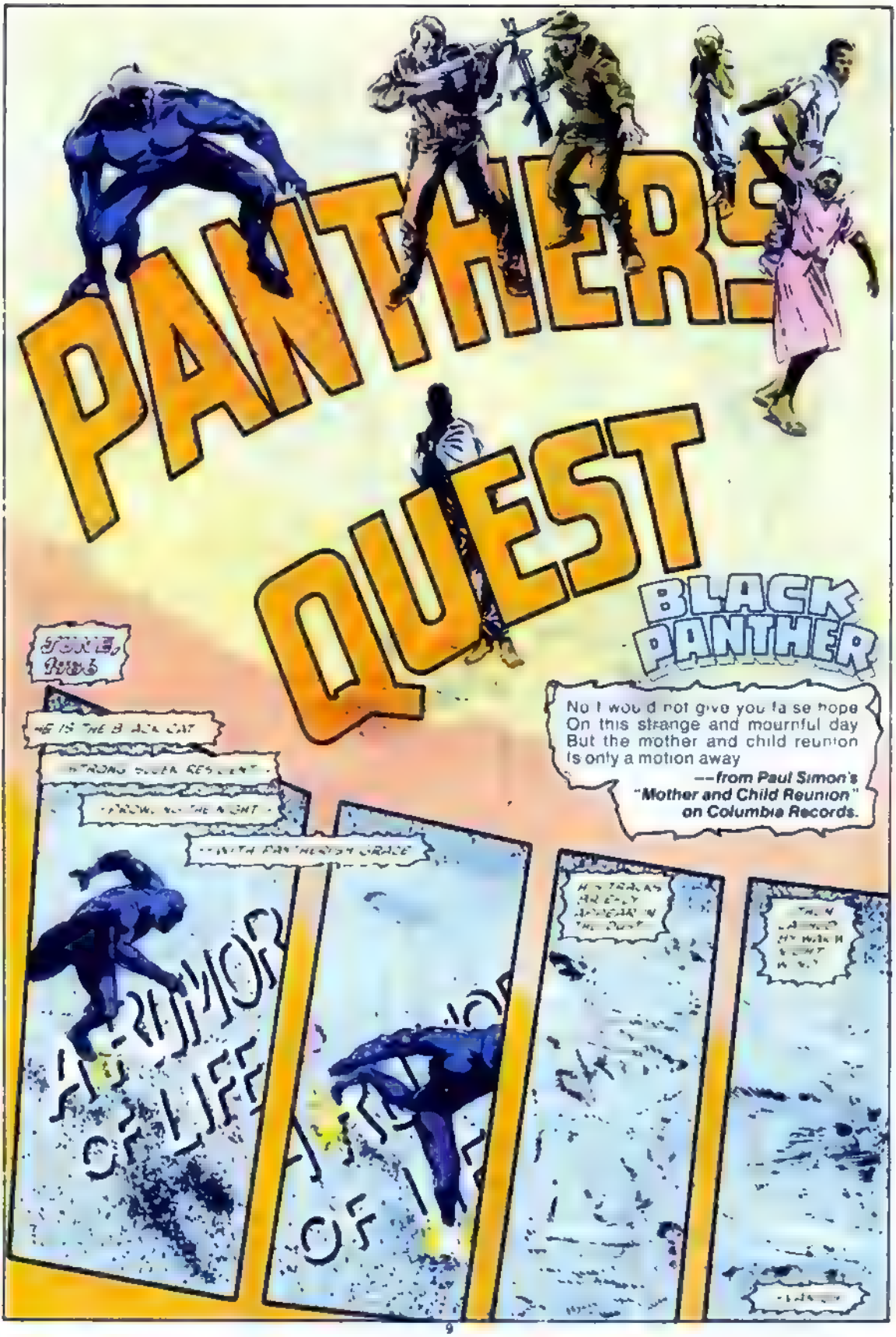

WHY COMPLAIN TO ME? COMPLAIN TO THIS COUNTRY YOU LOVE SO MUCH.
THE RIGHTEOUS U.S. OF A., THE COUNTRY THAT CHAMPIONS HUMAN RIGHTS--
--THAT CONSIDERS ITSELF THE BEACON OF RIGHTS, SHINING ON AN UNREGENERATE WORLD--
--DON'T THEY CONSIDER THE RIGHT TO A JOB, A HOME, AND HEALTHCARE, HUMAN RIGHTS?
BRUCE! I'M NOT SAYING AMERICA DOESN'T OFFER WONDERFUL RIGHTS--
--I'M JUST SAYING BOTH SYSTEMS HAVE FLAWS!
NO! HERE WE HAVE FREE SPEECH--
--FREEDOM TO CHOOSE OUR RELIGION, UNLIKE COMMUNIST--
RUSSIA'S FREE HEALTH AND EDUCATION SYSTEM MAY SUFFER IN QUALITY--
--BUT AT LEAST IT IS CONSIDERED A BASIC RIGHT.
I SEE THE HOMELESS IN YOUR STREETS, THE UNEMPLOYED. AREN'T THOSE HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS AS BAD AS RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION?

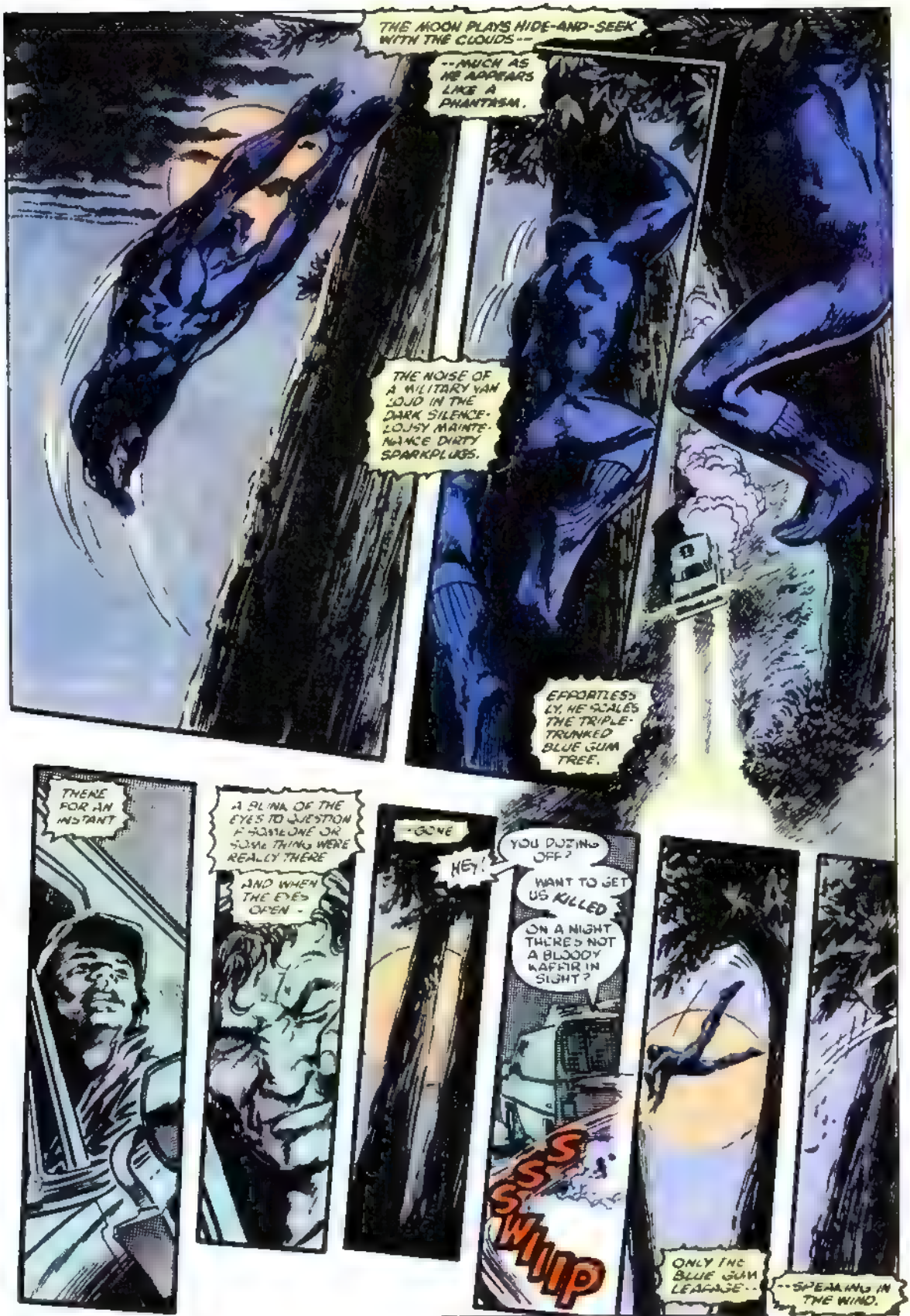
NO! LET THEM CLEAN THEMSELVES UP AND GET A JOB! THIS COUNTRY PROTECTS THE HIGHER RIGHTS--
OH, I SEE. HIGHER RIGHTS.
YOU USE THAT RHETORIC TO JUSTIFY THIS COUNTRY'S INTERNATIONAL POLICIES TO BACK WARS WHICH VIOLATE EVERY HUMAN RIGHT
SHUT UP! WE BACK FREEDOM FIGHTERS TO SPREAD DEMOCRACY, SAME AS OUR FOUNDING FATHERS--
LET'S STOP THIS. I'M JUST TRYING TO SAY THAT THE LIES AND PROPAGANDA AND DISTORTIONS OF THE MEDIA--
--KEEP OUR COUNTRIES PITTED AGAINST EACH OTHER.
BOTH COUNTRIES HAVE LET THEIR PEOPLE DOWN.
BOTH SYSTEMS HAVE STRENGTHS, BUT ULTIMATELY FALL FAR SHORT OF WHAT THEY PROMISE!
WE MUST STOP THE FIGHTING...

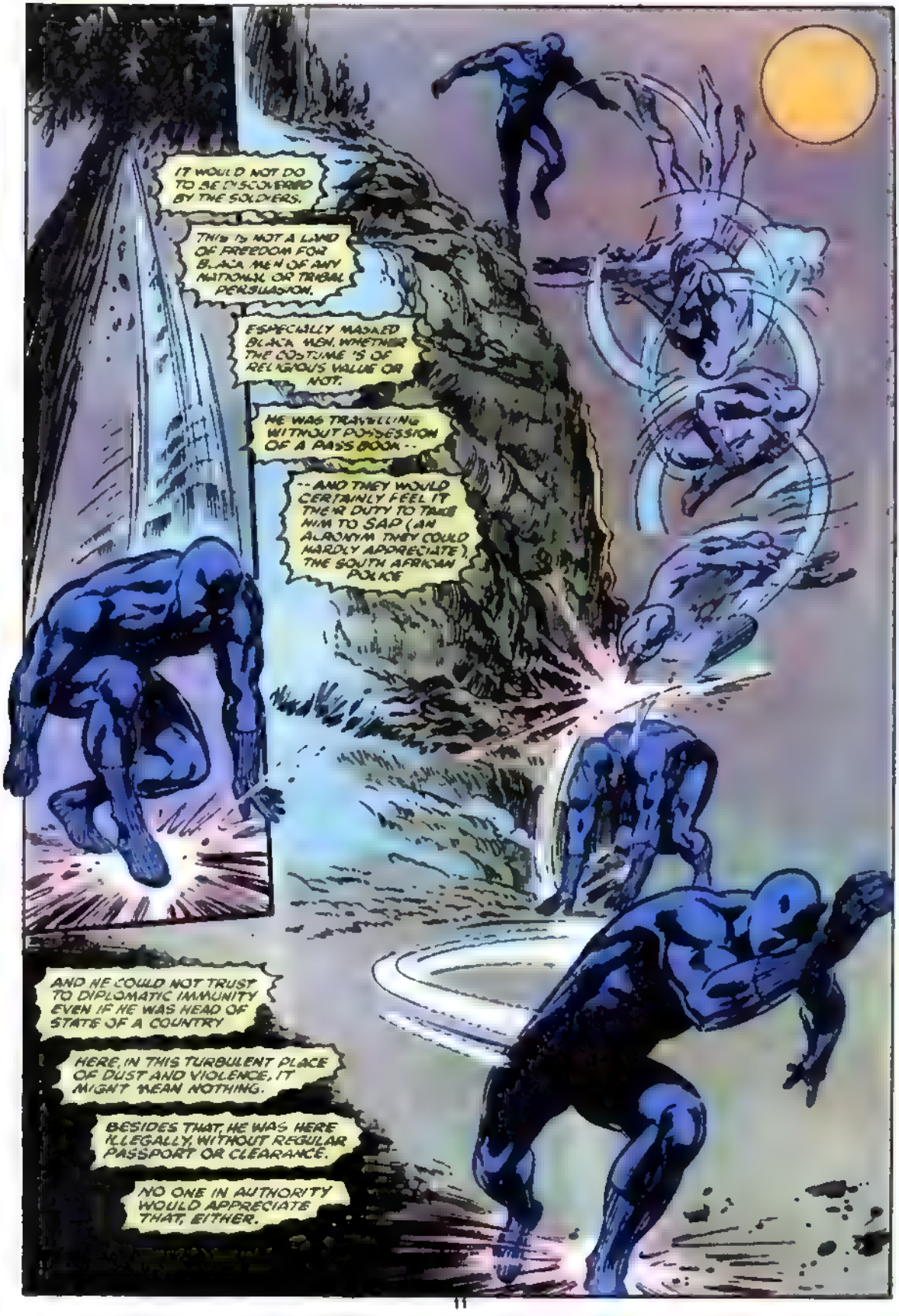

"STOP THE WAR OF WORDS...
"...BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE--
"--TOO LATE FOR ZACKERY'S GENERATION..."
BAM
PKOW
BUDDA BUDDA

I'M GOING OUT THERE!
PKOW
RIGHT.
BLAM
PKOW
ROUND TWO, "COMRADE."
PKO
SKRLASH
BREAK HIM, NUMBER SIX!
RIGHT.

WOK
WOMP
WAIT--PLEASE--TAKE ME PRISONER!
I MUST TALK TO THAT FAMILY INSIDE
PLEASE HIT ME.
WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?
HIT ME.
I I CAN'T.
OH DEAR, BRUCE! TRY NOT TO KILL ANYONE.
BRUCE? DEARY DO YOU THINK THE NEIGHBORS HEARD ANYTHING?
DO YOU HEAR THAT?
A SHOT!
SOUNDS LIKE A FIGHT!
SHOULD WE CALL THE POLICE?
AND PUT AN END TO THE EXCITEMENT?
FORGET IT!
CONTINUED NEXT ISSUE.


PANTHER'S QUEST
BLACK PANTHER
No I would not give you false hope
On this strange and mournful day
But the mother and child reunion
is only a motion away
—from Paul Simon's
"Mother and Child Reunion"
on Columbia Records.


THE MOON PLAYS HIDE-AND-SEEK WITH THE CLOUDS--
--MUCH AS HE APPEARS LIKE A PHANTASM.
THE NOISE OF A MILITARY VAN LOUD IN THE DARK SILENCE. LOUSY MAINTE-NANCE DIRTY SPARKPLUGS.
EFFORTLESS LY, HE SCALES THE TRIPLE-TRUNKED BLUE GUM TREE.
THERE FOR AN INSTANT
A BLINK OF THE EYES TO QUESTION IF SOMEONE OR SOME THING WERE REALLY THERE
AND WHEN THE EYES OPEN -
-GONE
HEY!
YOU DOZING OFF?
WANT TO GET US KILLED
ON A NIGHT THERE'S NOT A BLOODY KAFFIR IN SIGHT?
SSSSWIIP
ONLY THE BLUE GUM LEAVES...
--SPEAKING IN THE WIND.


IT WOULD NOT DO TO BE DISCOVERED BY THE SOLDIERS.
THIS IS NOT A LAND OF FREEDOM FOR BLACK MEN OF ANY NATIONAL OR TRIBAL PERSUASION.
ESPECIALLY MASKED BLACK MEN, WHETHER THE COSTUME IS OF RELIGIOUS VALUE OR NOT.
HE WAS TRAVELLING WITHOUT POSSESSION OF A PASS BOOK --
-- AND THEY WOULD CERTAINLY FEEL IT THEIR DUTY TO TAKE HIM TO SAP (AN ACRONYM THEY COULD HARDLY APPRECIATE), THE SOUTH AFRICAN POLICE
AND HE COULD NOT TRUST TO DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITY EVEN IF HE WAS HEAD OF STATE OF A COUNTRY
HERE, IN THIS TURBULENT PLACE OF DUST AND VIOLENCE, IT MIGHT MEAN NOTHING.
BESIDES THAT, HE WAS HERE ILLEGALLY, WITHOUT REGULAR PASSPORT OR CLEARANCE.
NO ONE IN AUTHORITY WOULD APPRECIATE THAT, EITHER.

HE HAS HEARD A RUMOR.
HE HAS TRACKED DOWN THIS RUMOR.
HE CANNOT DECIDE IF THE RUMOR IS TRUTH OR LIE.
HE DOES NOT WANT TO RAISE MUCH HOPE THAT THE RUMOR IS TRUE.
AND YET, WITH A DESPERATION THAT SURPRISES HIM HE WANTS THAT RUMOR TO BE TRUE.
AND KNOWS, SOMETHING WILL DIE WITHIN HIM --
--IF THE RUMOR IS NOTHING
--BUT A LIE.

THE AREA OUTSIDE THE BANTU HOSTEL SEEMS ALMOST A STILL-LIFE AREA.
HUSBANDS AND WIVES ARE NOT ALLOWED TO LIVE TOGETHER IN THESE WORKER'S LIVING QUARTERS. A BLACK GOLD MINER'S HOME WITHOUT PRIVACY OR INTIMACY.
THEY SAY HIS MOTHER IS IN THIS LAND OF BEAUTY AND HOSTILITY.
THE MOTHER HE CAN SCARCELY RECALL. HE WAS, PERHAPS, THREE YEARS OLD WHEN LAST HE SAW HER, BUT THIS IS ONLY A VAGUE MEMORY AND PERHAPS IT IS INCORRECT.
THE MOTHER HIS FATHER, T'CHAKA NEVER TALKED ABOUT
WHY DIDN'T YOU TALK ABOUT HER MY FATHER ON THOSE FEW SUNNIT DAYS WE HAD TO TALK WHEN I WAS A CHILD? THE DUTIES OF CHIEFTAIN OF THE WAKANDAS ALWAYS SEEMED TO CALL YOU AWAY
HE RECALLED QUITE EQUALLY ONE GOLDEN AFTERNOON WHEN HE WAS TEN. COULD THE DAY HAVE REALLY BEEN THAT BEAUTIFULLY PERFECT?
THE ELDERS WILL TELL YOU THAT YOU MUST MASTER THE ARTS OF MANHOOD--
--BUT IF YOU LEARN THEM AT THE EXPENSE OF THE ART OF CHILDHOOD, YOU WILL LEARN ONLY SELF-DECEPTION
WHY DID YOU NOT SPEAK OF MY MOTHER?

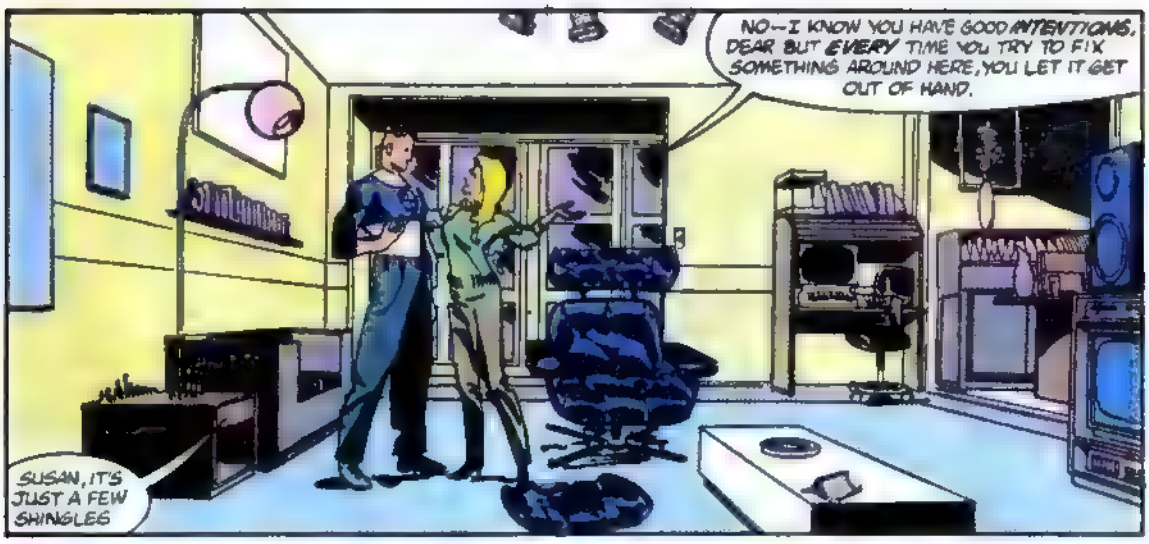
GROWING UP, HE WAS ALWAYS UNDER THE IMPRESSION THAT HIS MOTHER WAS DEAD.
NO ONE EVER SAID THIS OUT LOUD, AND NO ONE EVER ANSWERED QUESTIONS ABOUT HER, SO HE ASSUMED HER DEAD.
THE GREAT CAT'S EYES BLAZE, SLADE'S AFRICAN ARTIFACTS.
THIS IS THE CLANDESTINE MEETING PLACE! ALMOST THERE.
BEHIND THE SHOP, IN THE RAVINE, HIDDEN FROM OTHER EYES AND EARS
SLADE'S AFRICAN ART
NEAR THE WIDE LOOPS OF BARBED WIRE STRETCHED OUT AS BARRIERS BY YOUNG AFRIKANER SOLDIERS.
THE RUMOR SAYS SHE IS ALIVE.
THE RUMOR DOES NOT SAY WHY SHE HAS NEVER CONTACTED HIM.
THE RUMOR DOES NOT SAY WHY SHE DID NOT HELP HIS FATHER RAISE HIM.
ARFF
ARFF
THE RUMOR DOES NOT SAY IF SHE IS PRISONER OR HIDDEN BY CHOICE.
ARF
ARFF
THE RUMOR IS GIVEN VALIDITY BY THE UNKNOWN INFORMER TELLING OF HER NAME.
RAMONDA.
HOW COULD THE SENDER KNOW HIS MOTHER'S NAME IF THE INFORMANT DID NOT HAVE LEGITIMATE INFORMATION?
RUFF
RUFF

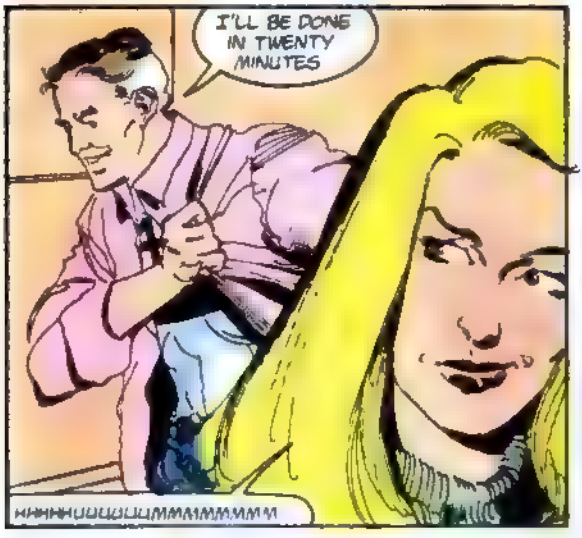
HE FINDS IT EMOTIONALLY OVERWHELMING THIS DESIRE TO FIND HER.
TO KNOW HER.
TO LEARN HER REASONS FOR WHATEVER SHE HAS DONE AND IS DOING.
TO HELP HER IF SHE NEEDS IT.
HE WOULD NOT HAVE BELIEVED LEARNING SHE MIGHT BE ALIVE WOULD BE SO IMPORTANT TO HIM.
IF THE RUMOR IS TRUE, HE WILL NOT KNOW WHAT TO CALL HER.
"RAMONDA?"
"MOTHER?"
"MOM?"
"MOMMA?"
RUFF
EEEOOO
"STRANGER?"
"BETRAYER?"
HE WILL NOT KNOW WHAT TO SAY TO HER
COULD HAVE SWORN I SAW SOMETHING MUST BE MY NERVES GETTING TO ME

SHOULDN'T HAVE COME OUT HERE EARLY. JUST GIVE MYSELF THE WILLIES
HE WILL NOT KNOW WHAT TO SAY TO HER.
"PLEASE LOVE ME" CAN HE SPEAK WORDS SO OPENLY TO ONE WHO MIGHT HAVE ABANDONED HIM?
AND YET, DOES HE DARE NOT REACH FOR HER, AND LONG TO HEAR HER SAY, "I LOVE YOU, SON. I ALWAYS HAVE."
HURRY IT UP!
GET HERE!
HE PRAYS IT WILL END WITH HER WORDS OF APPROVAL
--BUT HE HAS TROUBLE SUSTAINING FAITH THAT IT WILL
GOOD EVENING
HOW
HOW D YOU KNOW WHERE I WAS?
I HEARD YOU BREATHING.
WHAT? OUT HERE?
AND I SMELLED YOUR FEAR.
YOU BETTER BELIEVE THAT. WE GET CAUGHT OUT HERE... IF CERTAIN PEOPLE KNEW WHAT I WAS ABOUT TO TELL YOU...
...THEY'D CUT OUT MY TONGUE AND BURY ME SOMEWHERE WHERE MY BODY'D NEVER BE FOUND
"CLUCK! CLUCK!" WOULD GO THE NEIGHBORING STORE OWNERS
"WHATEVER HAPPENED TO DEAR OLD PATRICK SLADE?"
YOU DON'T HAVE TO IMPRESS ME TO RAISE YOUR PRICE
IF YOU KNOW OF MY MOTHER AND SPEAK THE TRUTH I AM PREPARED TO MEET MORE THAN YOUR TERMS
YEAH I HEARD YOU WERE A MAN OF HONOR AND ALL THAT ☆ A KING WITH IDEALS AND ETHICS DON'T THAT BEAT ALL?
SHOO MUTT!
YOU GOT THE MONEY ON YOU?

TO BE CONTINUED NEXT ISSUE

MR. FANTASTIC AND THE INVISIBLE WOMAN
REED-- YOU CAN'T!
I MUST, SUSAN.


NO--I KNOW YOU HAVE GOOD INTENTIONS, DEAR BUT EVERY TIME YOU TRY TO FIX SOMETHING AROUND HERE, YOU LET IT GET OUT OF HAND.
SUSAN, IT'S JUST A FEW SHINGLES

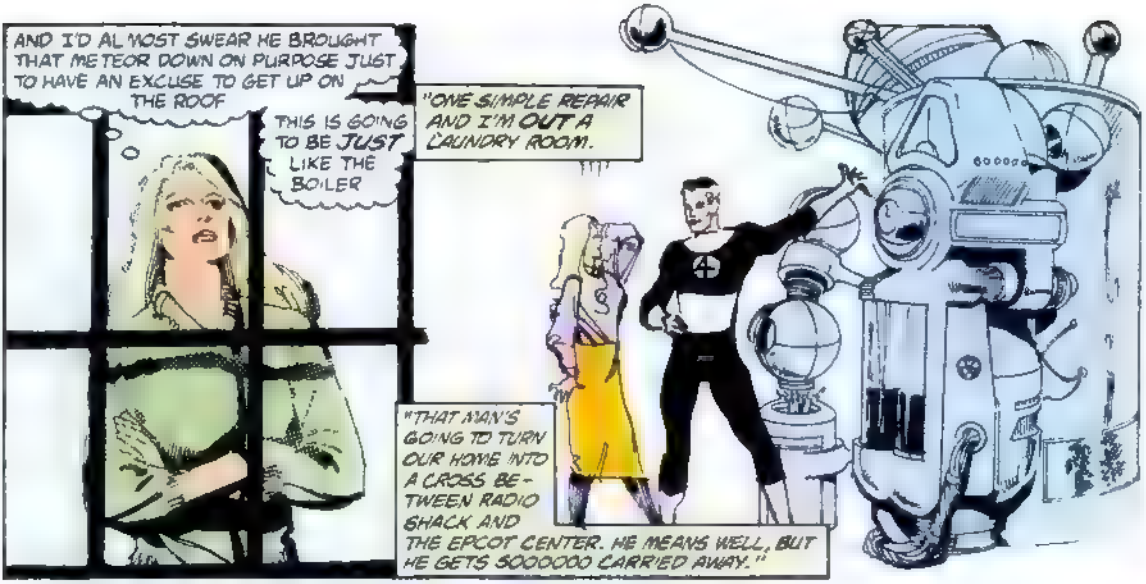

I'LL BE DONE IN TWENTY MINUTES
HHHHHUUUUUUUMMMMMMMM

TRUST ME, SWEETHEART
SMACK

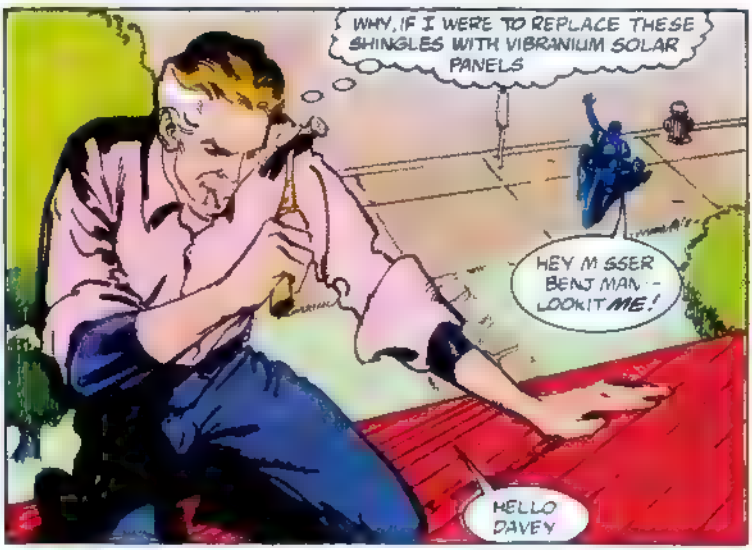
I'D TRUST YOU MORE INSIDE, REED

SUSAN I'M JUST GOING TO DO A LITTLE PATCH WORK-- NOTHING MAJOR.
I PROMISE.

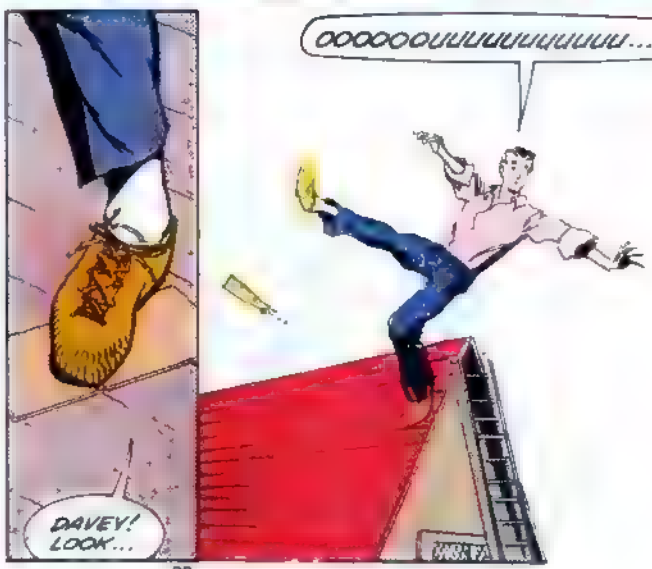
REED'S ON THE ROOF AND WE CAN'T GET HIM DOWN
I'VE BEEN MEANING TO PATCH THAT HOLE EVER SINCE MY GRAVITATIONAL FLUX MONITOR ACCIDENTALLY SNAGGED THAT METEOR AND PULLED IT THROUGH THE ROOF
HEH HEH NEVER DID ACTUALLY TELL SUSAN THAT WAS MY FAULT
OH WELL--EVEN HUSBANDS HAVE TO HAVE A FEW SECRETS
I KNOW THIS IS HIS FAULT.

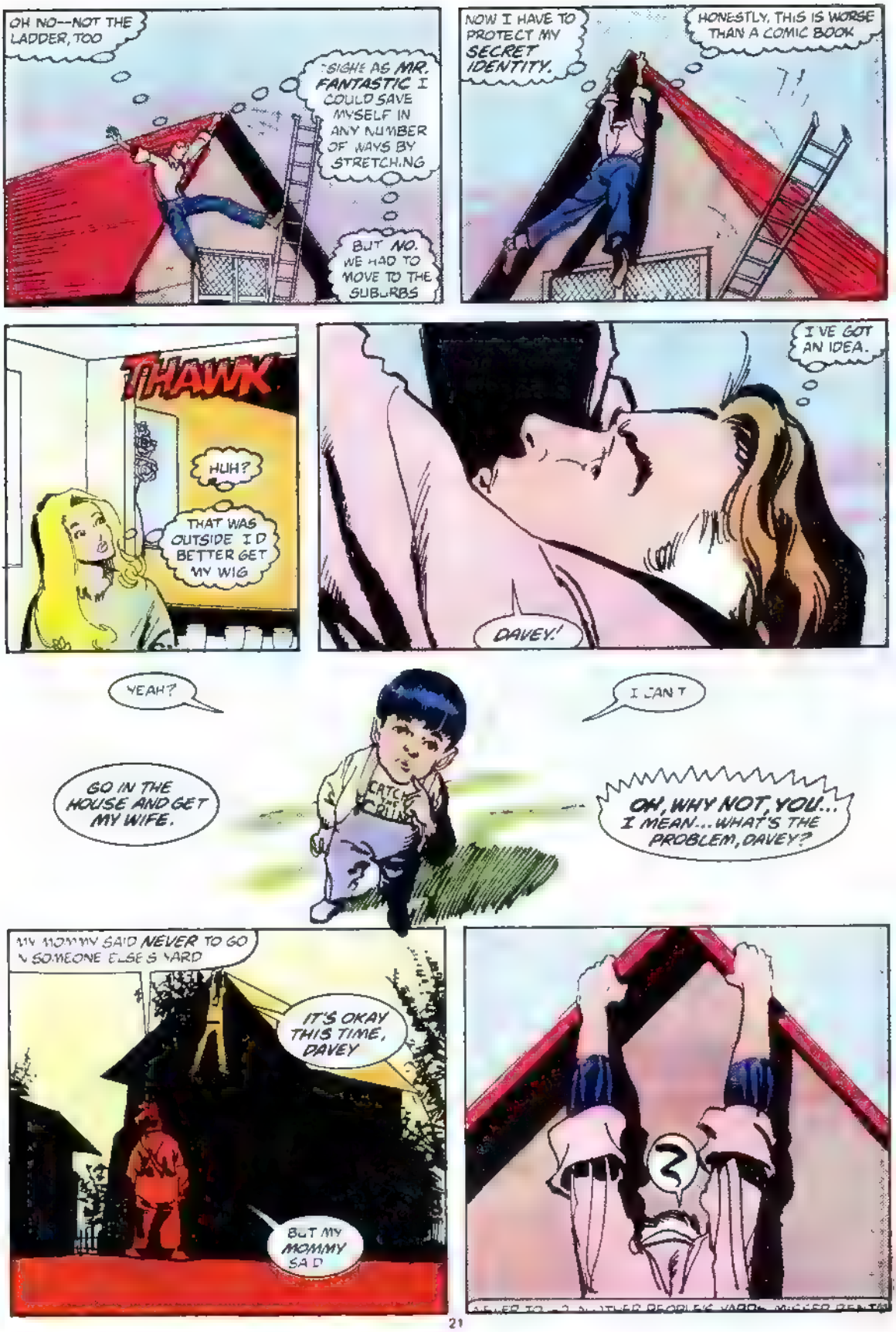

AND I'D ALMOST SWEAR HE BROUGHT THAT METEOR DOWN ON PURPOSE JUST TO HAVE AN EXCUSE TO GET UP ON THE ROOF
THIS IS GOING TO BE JUST LIKE THE BOILER
"ONE SIMPLE REPAIR AND I'M OUT A LAUNDRY ROOM.
"THAT MAN'S GOING TO TURN OUR HOME INTO A CROSS BE-TWEEN RADIO SHACK AND THE EPCOT CENTER. HE MEANS WELL, BUT HE GETS SOOOOOO CARRIED AWAY."

WHY...THIS WILL BE EVEN EASIER THAN I THOUGHT
AND YOU KNOW NOW THAT I'M UP HERE, I CAN SEE SOME REAL POSSIBILITIES ..


WHY, IF I WERE TO REPLACE THESE SHINGLES WITH VIBRANIUM SOLAR PANELS
HEY M'SSER BENJ MAN - LOOKIT ME!
HELLO DAVEY

OH, NO! HE'S HEADED FOR THE BUCKET OF TAR

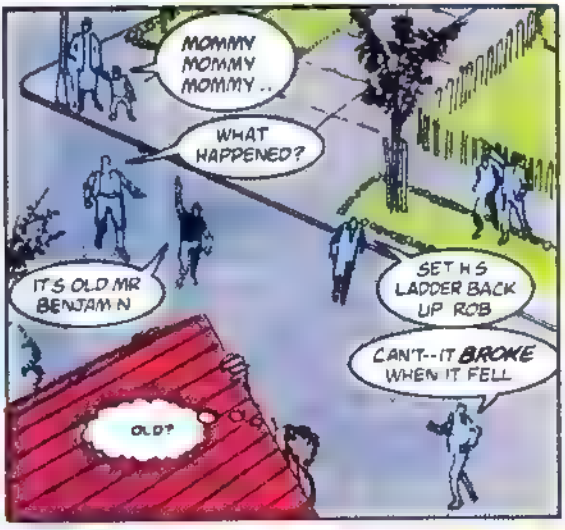

OOOOOOUUUUUUUUUUUUUU...!!
DAVEY! LOOK...

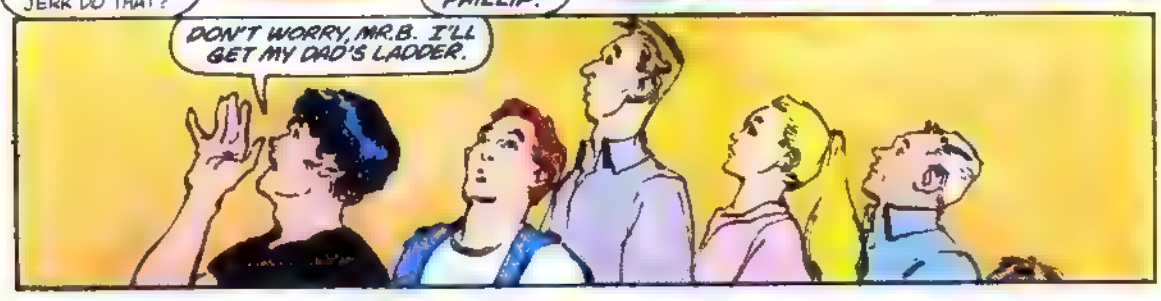

OH NO--NOT THE LADDER, TOO
SIGH! AS MR. FANTASTIC I COULD SAVE MYSELF IN ANY NUMBER OF WAYS BY STRETCHING
BUT NO. WE HAD TO MOVE TO THE SUBURBS
NOW I HAVE TO PROTECT MY SECRET IDENTITY.
HONESTLY, THIS IS WORSE THAN A COMIC BOOK
THAWK
HUH?
THAT WAS OUTSIDE I'D BETTER GET MY WIG
I'VE GOT AN IDEA.
DAVEY!
YEAH?
GO IN THE HOUSE AND GET MY WIFE.
I CAN'T
OH, WHY NOT, YOU... I MEAN... WHAT'S THE PROBLEM, DAVEY?
MY MOMMY SAID NEVER TO GO IN SOMEONE ELSE'S YARD
IT'S OKAY THIS TIME, DAVEY
BUT MY MOMMY SAID

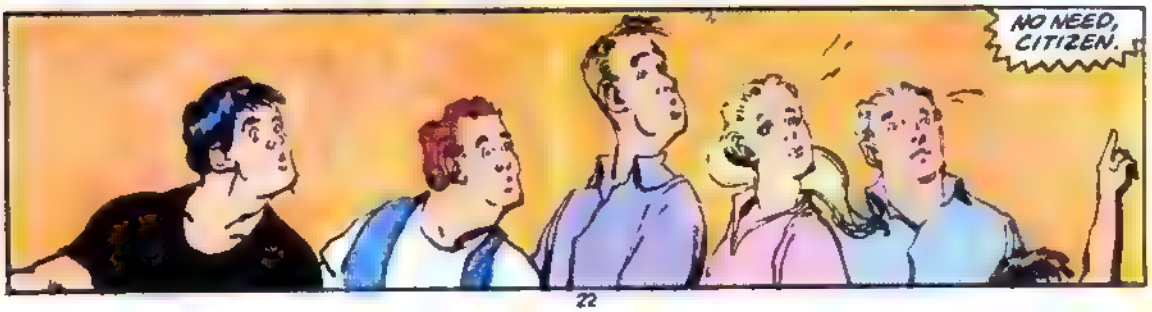
I DON'T BELIEVE THIS... SERVES HIM RIGHT-- OUGHT TO JUST LEAVE HIM UP THERE...

WAIT A MINUTE...MAYBE I CAN USE THIS.

MY GOSH, LOOK AT THAT!
HOW'D THAT JERK DO THAT?
PHILLIP!


MOMMY MOMMY MOMMY..
WHAT HAPPENED?
IT'S OLD MR BENJAMIN
SET HIS LADDER BACK UP ROB
CAN'T--IT BROKE WHEN IT FELL
OLD?

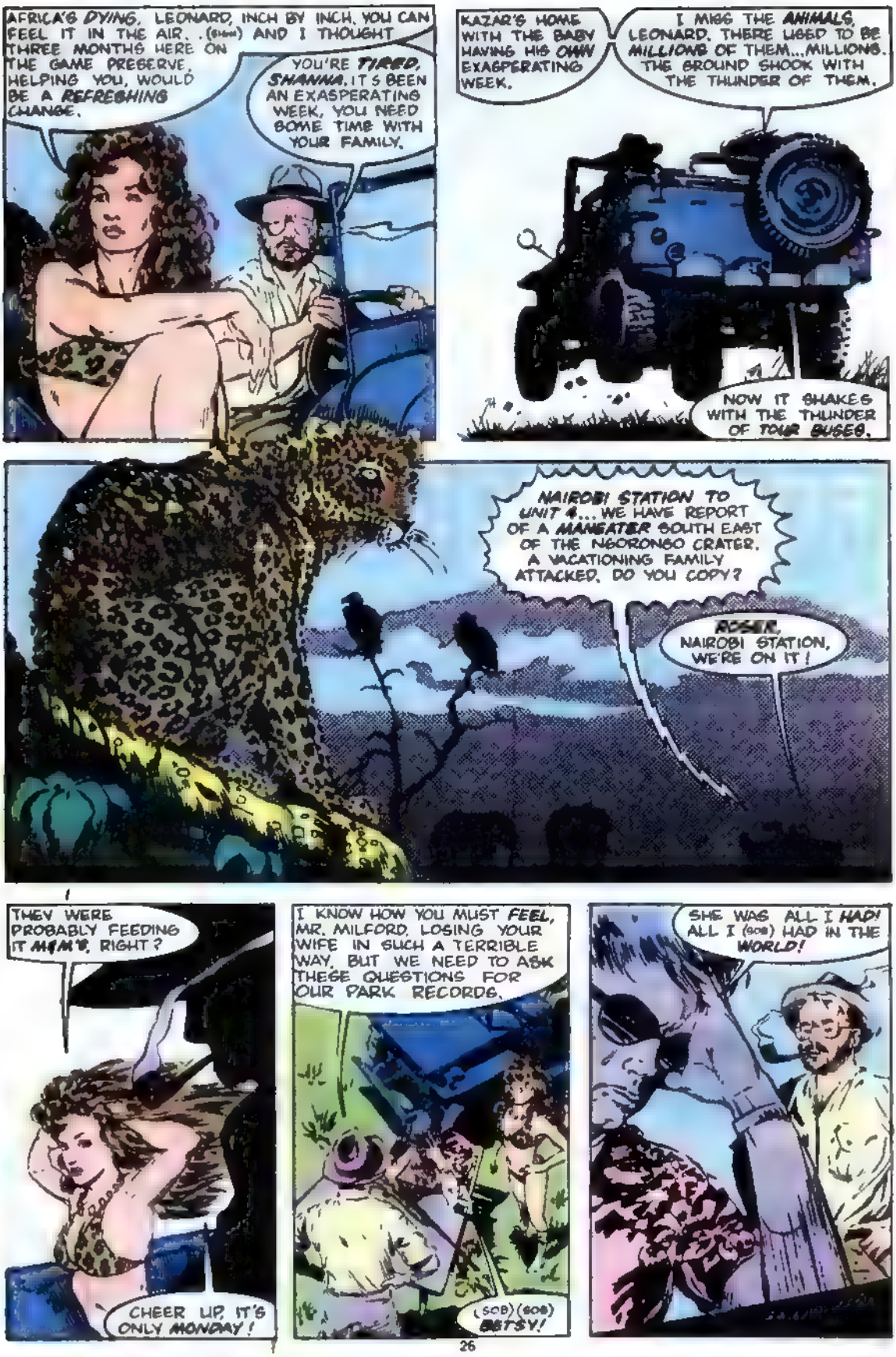

DON'T WORRY, MR.B. I'LL GET MY DAD'S LADDER.


NO NEED, CITIZEN.

HERE YOU GO, SIR, SAFE AND SOUND.
THANK YOU, MA'AM
YOU KNOW--YOU REALLY SHOULDN'T ATTEMPT THESE KINDS OF CHORES YOURSELF.
I KNOW THAT NOW .. MA'AM.
IN THE FUTURE--PLEASE CALL AN EXPER.ENCED, CERTIFIED ROOFING SPECIALIST.
I'LL DO THAT...
MA'AM.
IT'S THE INVISIBLE WOMAN!
SHE'S .SHE'S BEAUTIFUL
WOW. SCOPE DEM LEGS.
THEN MY WORK HERE IS DONE.
G'BYE

THAT EVENING..
THAT WAS A DIRTY TRICK
OH, IT SERVED YOU RIGHT. BESIDES..
.. YOU CAN'T TELL ME YOU DIDN'T COME UP WITH SOMETHING ELSE TO DO TO OUR POOR ROOF WHILE YOU WERE UP THERE
AND A DANGEROUS ONE, TOO
IT WAS STILL A DIRTY TRICK
DANGEROUS?
REED, WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
YOU NEVER KNOW-- PRETTY SOON YOU'LL HAVE THE NEIGHBORS THINKING "WHY DON'T WE NEVER SEE SUSAN BENJAMIN AND THE INVISIBLE WOMAN IN THE SAME PLACE?
OH YOU YOU HUSBAND
COME 'ERE
THE EVER LOVIN' END

SHE-DEVIL
A TOOTH FOR A TOOTH
BRUCE JONES '88
POACHERS?
WE MUST HAVE SURPRISED THEM
THEY DIDN'T EVEN HAVE TIME TO TAKE THE HORNS WHAT A USELESS PATHETIC WASTE.


AFRICA'S DYING, LEONARD, INCH BY INCH. YOU CAN FEEL IT IN THE AIR. (Sigh) AND I THOUGHT THREE MONTHS HERE ON THE GAME PRESERVE, HELPING YOU, WOULD BE A REFRESHING CHANGE.
YOU'RE TIRED, SHANNA. IT'S BEEN AN EXASPERATING WEEK. YOU NEED SOME TIME WITH YOUR FAMILY.
KAZAR'S HOME WITH THE BABY HAVING HIS OWN EXASPERATING WEEK.
I MISS THE ANIMALS, LEONARD. THERE USED TO BE MILLIONS OF THEM...MILLIONS. THE GROUND SHOOK WITH THE THUNDER OF THEM.
NOW IT SHAKES WITH THE THUNDER OF YOUR BUSES.
NAIROBI STATION TO UNIT 4... WE HAVE REPORT OF A MANEATER SOUTH EAST OF THE NGORONGO CRATER. A VACATIONING FAMILY ATTACKED. DO YOU COPY?
ROGER. NAIROBI STATION, WE'RE ON IT!
THEY WERE PROBABLY FEEDING IT M&M'S, RIGHT?
CHEER UP, IT'S ONLY MONDAY!
I KNOW HOW YOU MUST FEEL, MR. MILFORD, LOSING YOUR WIFE IN SUCH A TERRIBLE WAY, BUT WE NEED TO ASK THESE QUESTIONS FOR OUR PARK RECORDS.
(SOB) (SOB) BETSY!
SHE WAS ALL I HAD! ALL I (SOB) HAD IN THE WORLD!

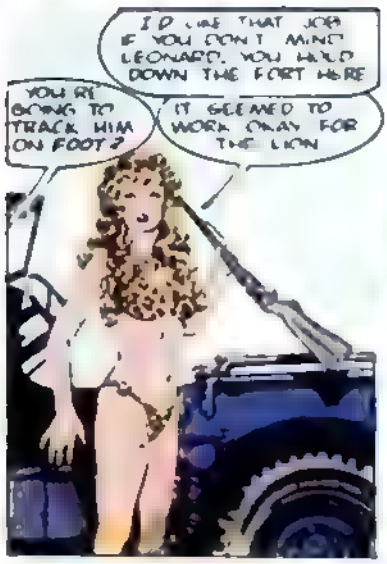
PERHAPS IF WE COULD BEGIN AT THE BEGINNING...
OUR VACATION WAS NEARLY OVER BUT I WANTED TO BAG A LION. BETSY WAS SO SWEET ABOUT IT. "WHATEVER YOU WANT, PHILLIP" SHE SAID, "I DON'T MIND..."
...I DON'T MIND THE HEAT AND THE FILTH SO MUCH AS HOW STUPID YOU LOOK IN THAT RIDICULOUS SAFARI HAT. DID YOU THINK YOU'D LOOK LIKE STEWART GRANGER? YOU LOOK LIKE TRUMAN CAPOTE.
SHUT UP! HE'LL HEAR YOU!
"HE" WHO? TWO WEEKS AND YOU HAVEN'T BAGGED SO MUCH AS A GROUND SQUIRREL.
CAN'T KEEP STILL FOR A SECOND, CAN YOU?
K-POW
WELL, SHOOT IT, YOU IDIOT, SHOOT IT! GOOD GRIEF, NO WONDER YOU NEVER HIT ANYTHING, YOU NEVER PULL THE TRIGGER! DRAT! MY NEW PANTS.
GOT HIM! FIRST SHOT!
NOT MUCH OF A LION IF YOU ASK ME. KIND OF MOTH-EATEN, ISN'T HE?
NOT THAT I'D EXPECT MUCH FROM PHILLIP! JUST WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?
I'M NOT SURE, BETSY...BUT I THINK I'VE JUST DISCOVERED A WAY TO A NEW AND BETTER LIFE...
PHILLIP!
...ALONG WITH THE PERFECT CRIME!

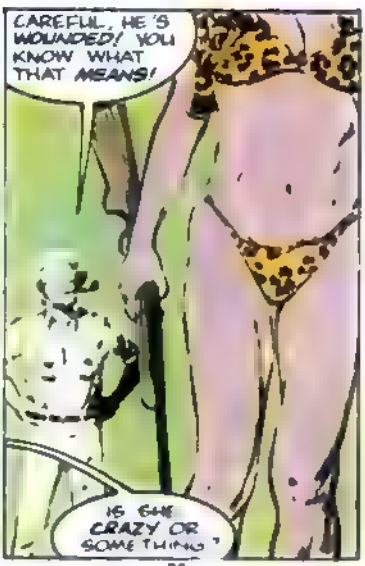
THE GUN JAMMED...THE LION LEPT ON BETSY! BY THE TIME I GOT IT WORKING IT...IT HAD HER BY THE NECK! I I FIRED AGAIN AND AGAIN! I KNOW I THINK ONE OF THE BULLETS STRUCK HER ACCIDENTALLY
SHANNA--!

YES, THERE'S A BULLET WOUND IN THE UPPER CHEST ALSO TWIN MARKS IN THE JUGULAR, CLAW LACERATIONS ON THE ARMS. I'D SAY FROM A TWO YEAR OLD MALE LION.

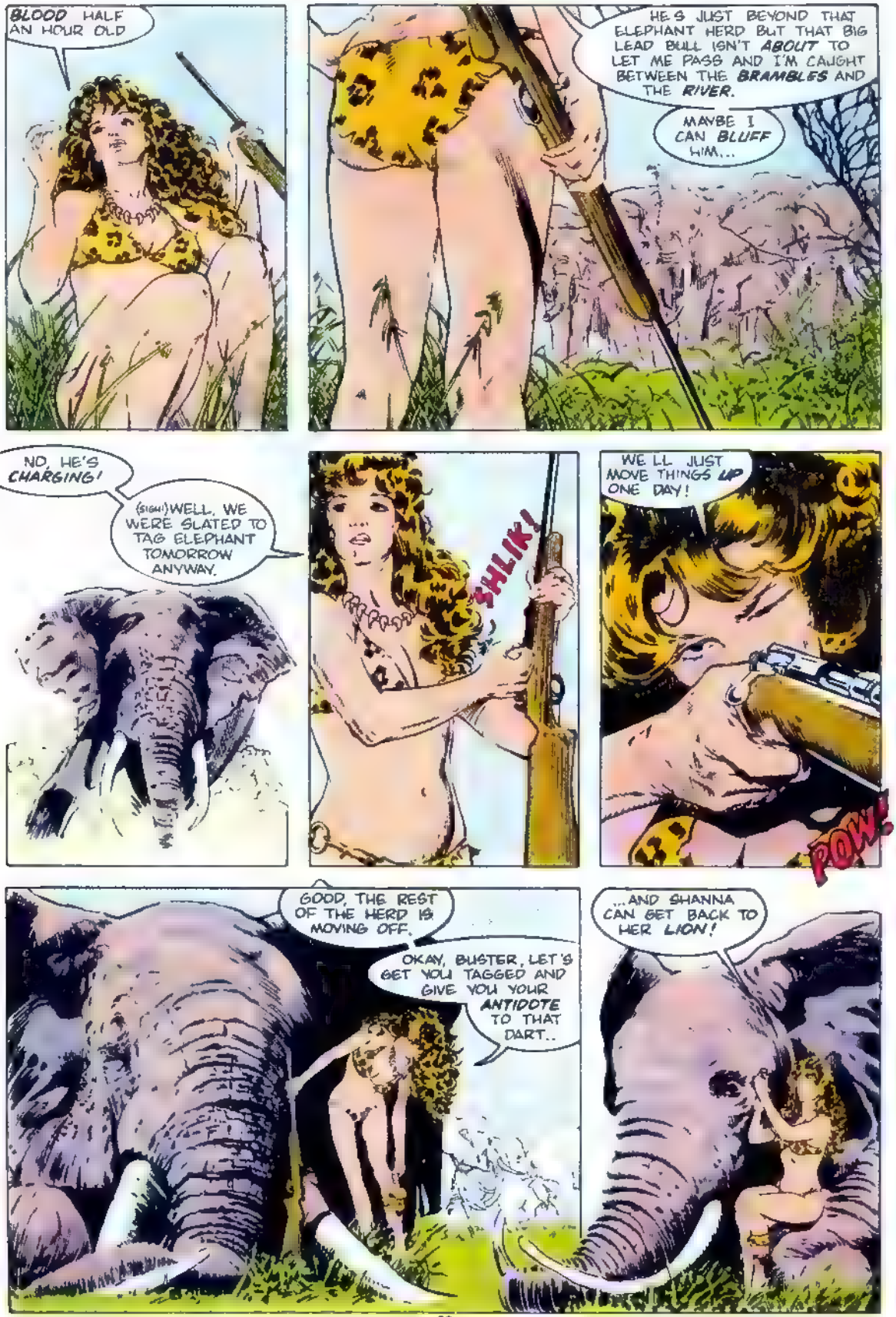
WHERE'S THE LION NOW, MILFORD.
OUT THERE, ABOUT A MILE OR TWO.
WE JUST CAME FROM THERE. I SAW NO LION.

WHAT!
EASY, MAN. YOU MIGHT HAVE MERELY WOUNDED IT. WE'LL RUN THE BEGGAR DOWN, NEVER YOU FEAR.

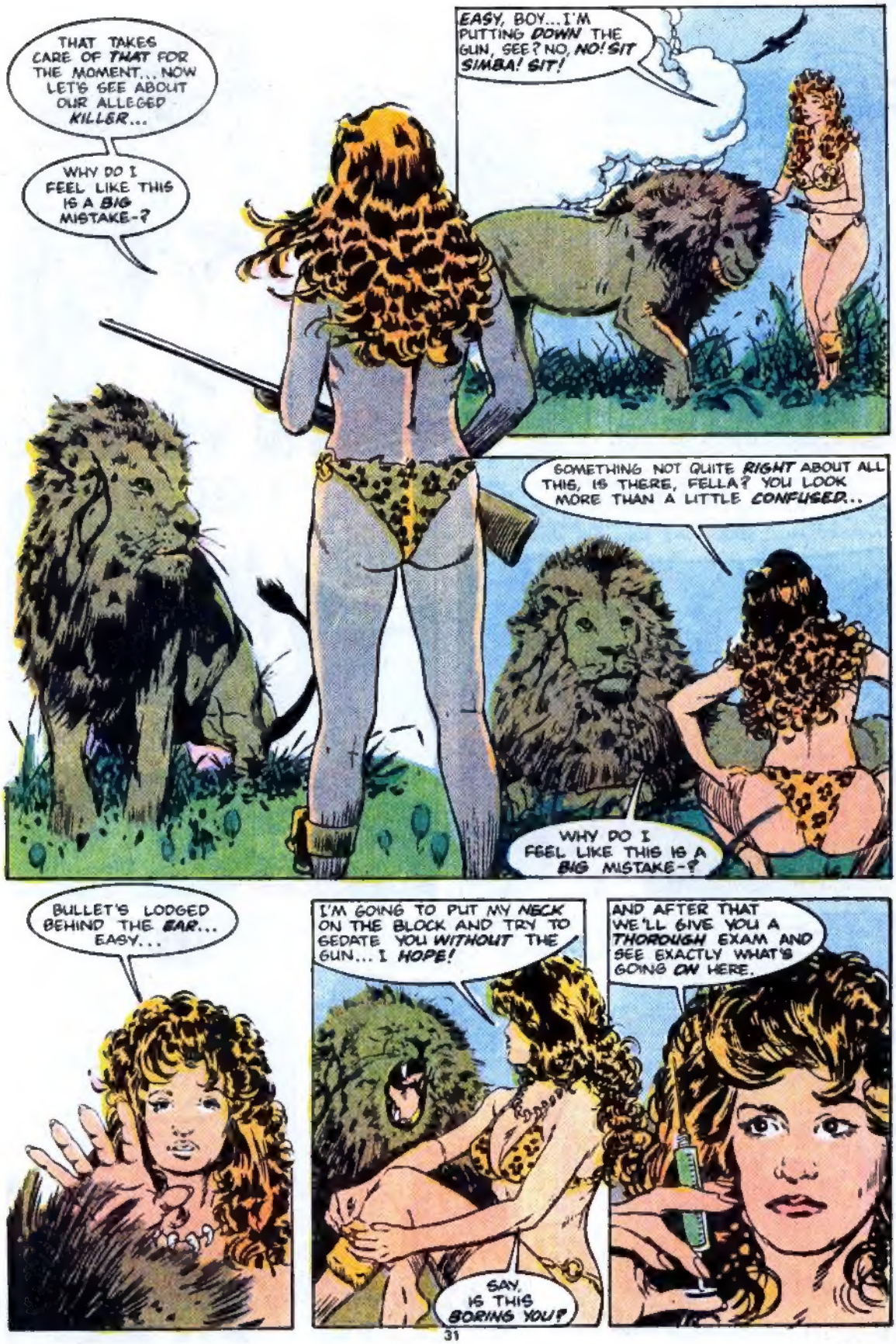

I'D LIKE THAT JOB IF YOU DON'T MIND LEONARD. YOU HOLD DOWN THE FORT HERE
YOU'RE GOING TO TRACK HIM ON FOOT?
IT SEEMED TO WORK OKAY FOR THE LION


CAREFUL, HE'S WOUNDED! YOU KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS!
IS SHE CRAZY OR SOMETHING?

NO SHE'S SHANNA.


BLOOD HALF AN HOUR OLD
HE'S JUST BEYOND THAT ELEPHANT HERD BUT THAT BIG LEAD BULL ISN'T ABOUT TO LET ME PASS AND I'M CAUGHT BETWEEN THE BRAMBLES AND THE RIVER.
MAYBE I CAN BLUFF HIM...
NO, HE'S CHARGING!
(SIGH!) WELL, WE WERE SLATED TO TAG ELEPHANT TOMORROW ANYWAY.
SHLIK!
WE'LL JUST MOVE THINGS UP ONE DAY!
POW!
GOOD, THE REST OF THE HERD IS MOVING OFF.
OKAY, BUSTER, LET'S GET YOU TAGGED AND GIVE YOU YOUR ANTIDOTE TO THAT DART..
...AND SHANNA CAN GET BACK TO HER LION!

FRESHER BLOOD LEADING TO THAT BAOBAB TREE.
THERE HE IS!
HELLO, FELLA... TUCKERED OUT, ARE YOU?
HE DOESN'T SEEM INCLINED TO ATTACK...
...STILL, ONE CAN'T BE TOO CAUTIOUS.
ANOTHER BIG MALE BEHIND ME.
AND THIS ONE DOES SEEM INCLINED. ONLY HAVE ONE DART LEFT IN THE GUN...
...AND IT PROBABLY WOULDN'T HAVE TIME TO TAKE EFFECT ANYWAY. HOW DO I GET MYSELF INTO THESE SITUATIONS?
GOOD GRIEF, I HAVEN'T BEEN CHARGED THIS MUCH IN ONE DAY SINCE I OPENED MY LAST-UH-MACY'S BILL!
CRACK!
HE'S CHARGING!

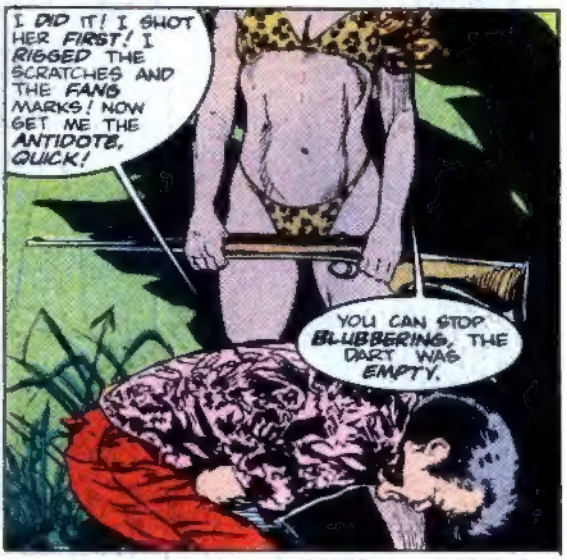

THAT TAKES CARE OF THAT FOR THE MOMENT... NOW LET'S SEE ABOUT OUR ALLEGED KILLER...
WHY DO I FEEL LIKE THIS IS A BIG MISTAKE-?
EASY, BOY... I'M PUTTING DOWN THE GUN, SEE? NO, NO! SIT SIMBA! SIT!
SOMETHING NOT QUITE RIGHT ABOUT ALL THIS, IS THERE, FELLA? YOU LOOK MORE THAN A LITTLE CONFUSED...
WHY DO I FEEL LIKE THIS IS A BIG MISTAKE-?
BULLET'S LODGED BEHIND THE EAR... EASY...
I'M GOING TO PUT MY NECK ON THE BLOCK AND TRY TO SEDATE YOU WITHOUT THE GUN... I HOPE!
SAY, IS THIS BORING YOU?
AND AFTER THAT WE'LL GIVE YOU A THOROUGH EXAM AND SEE EXACTLY WHAT'S GOING ON HERE.

HOLY GOD-!

SHE'S BROUGHT THAT MONSTER WITH HER!
MILFORD, NO!

CRACK

I SHOULD THINK TRANQUILIZER DOSAGE FOR AN ELEPHANT WOULD KILL A HUMAN IN ABOUT TEN MINUTES, WOULDN'T YOU SAY, LEONARD? PERHAPS YOU'D LIKE TO TELL US THE TRUTH ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED WITH YOUR WIFE NOW, MR. MILFORD.


I DID IT! I SHOT HER FIRST! I RIGGED THE SCRATCHES AND THE FANG MARKS! NOW GET ME THE ANTIDOTE, QUICK!
YOU CAN STOP BLUBBERING, THE DART WAS EMPTY.

BUT THE CAT--
GENTLEMEN, MEET SULTAN! ESCAPED FROM JACK BINGHAM'S RANCH TWO DAYS AGO, GOT HIMSELF LOST IN THE BUSH, RAISED FROM A KITTEN-- WOULDN'T HURT A FLY! TOOK ME A MOMENT TO RECOGNIZE HIM.

NEXT TIME, MR. MILBURN, CHOOSE YOUR SCAPEGOATS MORE CAREFULLY. C'MON, SULTAN, LET'S GO HOME!
SHE'S INSANE!

NO... SHE'S SHANNA.
THE END.

SHANNA
THE
SHE-DEVIL™
MR. FANTASTIC™
AND THE
INVISIBLE WOMAN™